

APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE

SPRING/SUMMER 2008

Alberta



NEWS FROM THE ALBERTA APPRENTICESHIP AND INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD



MESSAGE FROM HONOURABLE DOUG HORNER

As Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, I'm thrilled to continue working with Alberta's outstanding apprenticeship and industry training system.

Thanks to a strong economy and high demand for skilled labour, certified tradespeople have a bright future in our province. That's why the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board, industry and the Alberta government are working hard to encourage more Albertans to pursue a career in the trades.

One exciting new initiative is the expansion of the Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board Family of Scholarships. You can read an overview of the changes impacting scholarship recipients and donors in this issue. Premier Ed Stelmach has also announced some good news when it comes to promoting trades careers to youth: the province has committed \$24 million to date towards organizing and staging the 40th WorldSkills Competition in Calgary next year. This high-profile event for young competitors will be the largest international competition held in Calgary since the 1988 Winter Olympics. See the update on WorldSkills Calgary 2009 in this issue for more details.

As employers continue to hire apprentices and our system grows, we will continue to work with technical training providers to offer more classes and spaces, better facilities and new equipment. I'm proud of the outstanding post-secondary apprenticeship training offered to Albertans in the trades, and look forward to continuing to promote the trades as an excellent career choice.

Doug Horner
MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY



ENTREPRENEUR RECOGNIZED FOR GIVING BACK TO TRADES COMMUNITY

*Spotlight on...Ernie Wirtanen, recipient of
special Board award*

Ernie Wirtanen, founder of Wirtanen Electric Ltd. and the George Wirtanen School in Edmonton, received a special award from the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board during the annual awards reception held in February. Presented by Board Chair Brian Bickley, the award recognizes outstanding individuals who have contributed to the success of Alberta's apprenticeship and industry training system.

The George Wirtanen School, named after Ernie's late son, has provided pre-apprenticeship training in the electrical trades since it opened its doors in 2001. People referred to the school may be unable to enter the workforce as apprentices due to inexperience, financial limitations or educational constraints.

The program is unique because it is funded entirely through the Wirtanen Electric Training Foundation. This means the school provides all training, mentoring and placement assistance to students free of charge.

ATTEND TRAINING AND BE SUCCESSFUL!

The 2008-2009 technical training calendar was mailed to all registered apprentices and their employers in April. The calendar contains a wealth of information, including enrollment instructions, financial assistance information, class schedules for each trade, and information from each training provider. We recommend that you enroll in technical training soon if you haven't done so already.

If you prefer to get your information from the internet, a new page has been added to our website at www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca/tt. This comprehensive, easy-to-navigate page provides information related to technical training, including links to financial assistance programs such as Employment Insurance (EI) and grants. It also has a link to a special version of the class schedule that will let you see the current number of seats still available for your trade and technical training period at each of the 10 training providers.

Are classes full at your first-choice location? Consider enrolling at an alternative location that still has seats available – many locations offer affordable student housing.

If you can't find what you need in the calendar or on the website, call Apprenticeship and Industry Training's toll-free technical training information line at 1-877-899-SEAT (7328). An operator will be pleased to assist you with any questions you have about apprenticeship technical training.

APPRENTICES: WHY ATTEND TECHNICAL TRAINING?

- Wages.** Increase your wages as you progress through your training.
- Knowledge.** Gain technical expertise to help improve your on-the-job skills.
- Confidence.** Increase your confidence on the job.
- Recognition.** Earn your employer's appreciation for your commitment to your apprenticeship.
- Advancement.** Move ahead in your career as you complete your technical training.
- Accomplishment.** Achieve your goal of becoming a certified journeyperson.

EMPLOYERS: WHY SEND APPRENTICES TO TECHNICAL TRAINING ANNUALLY?

- Productivity.** Greater efficiency from your apprentices increases your bottom line.
- Competency.** Improved know-how allows your apprentices to handle more complex work.
- Quality.** Apprentices with increased skills and knowledge improve the quality of your products and services.
- Retention.** Apprentices are more likely to stay with an employer who encourages them to succeed.
- Credibility.** Your company's image is enhanced when your workers are properly trained and certified.

P.M. #40032005
ISSN 1716-1495

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
Apprenticeship and Industry Training
10th floor, Commerce Place
10155 - 102 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 4L5

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN ALBERTA'S APPRENTICESHIP AND INDUSTRY TRAINING SYSTEM

Each year, the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board recognizes the top apprentices, employers and instructors in the province. In 2007, a new award was introduced for top employers of aboriginal apprentices, and a one-time special award was presented to the founder of a pre-apprenticeship school in Edmonton.

TOP INSTRUCTOR AWARD

Mr. Allen Clampitt

Cook Instructor
Lethbridge College

Mr. Bryce Nelson

Auto Body Refinisher Instructor
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology

Read about this award and its recipients on page 3.

TOP EMPLOYER AWARD

Alberta Pacific Forest Industries

Boyle

Pinnacle International

Redcliff

Read about this award and its recipients on page 3.

TOP EMPLOYER OF ABORIGINAL APPRENTICES AWARD

BG Industrial Doctors Inc.

Fort McMurray

Synchrude Canada Ltd.

Fort McMurray

Read about this award and its recipients on page 1 of the special insert.

SPECIAL AWARD

A special award was presented this year to **Mr. Ernie Wirtanen** for his outstanding support of pre-apprenticeship training in the electrical trades.

Read about Mr. Wirtanen's contributions to the trades community on page 1.

TOP APPRENTICES

During their final period of technical training, top apprentices achieved the highest combined mark in their apprenticeship program and received a strong recommendation from their employer.

Congratulations to the recipients of a 2007 Top Apprentice Award:

TRADE	APPRENTICE	EMPLOYER
Agricultural Equipment Technician	Victor Albert Gagnon Grande Prairie	Finning Canada
Appliance Service Technician	Lorne M. Grigg Strathmore	PJ's Appliance Warehouse and Service Plus Inc.
Auto Body Technician - Prepper	Daniel Aubrey Green Drumheller	Peterson Auto Body Ltd.
Auto Body Technician - Auto Body Repairer	Kenneth Victor Janzen Coaldale	Kustom Auto Body (Coaldale 1990) Ltd.
Auto Body Technician - Auto Body Refinisher	Larry Sherman Oja Rocky Mountain House	AKA Precision Auto Body
Automotive Service Technician	David William Spencer Didsbury	Hildebrand Motors Ltd.
Baker	Jessica Ann Benisch Canmore	Panino Bakery
Boilermaker	Brent William Toohey Calgary	Boilermaker Apprenticeship Administration Agency
Bricklayer	Josiah Melreil Merrick Edmonton	Walter Cook Masonry
Cabinetmaker	Brent Nathan Beeson Calgary	Executive Millwork Inc.
Carpenter	Joel Justin Walker Calgary	Complete Home Renovations
Communication Technician	Fred Mark Brotherton Red Deer	Telus
Concrete Finisher	Henry Joseph Mazur St. Albert	City of Edmonton, Transportation Department
Cook	Matthew C. Labossiere Red Deer	Capri Hotel and Conference Centre
Crane and Hoisting Equipment Operator - Mobile Crane	Cameron Robert Hood Fort McMurray	La Prairie Crane Ltd.
Crane and Hoisting Equipment Operator - Boom Truck	Allen Mark Collins Red Deer	Big Eagle Services
Crane and Hoisting Equipment Operator - Wellhead Boom Truck	Keith Spencer Johnson Delburne	Trican Well Service
Electric Motor Systems Technician	Shaun Earl Nelson Grande Prairie	GPR Industries (1994) Ltd.
Electrician	Brian Jeffrey Slomp Hanna	Alberta Power Limited
Floorcovering Installer	Casey Benjamin Stikma Spruce Grove	Allan Terpstra
Gasfitter (A)	Shaughn Curtis Nichols Red Deer	Red Deer Plumbing & Gasfitter Ltd.
Glazier	Robert Edward Trufen Calgary	Ferguson Glass Western Ltd.
Hairstylist	Orla Maria Nagle Sherwood Park	Verve Salon & Spa Ltd.
Heavy Equipment Technician	Shawn Chadwick Gerrie Sherwood Park	Finning Canada
Heavy Equipment Technician - Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic (Off Road)	Burke Joseph Hughes Edmonton	Maple Leaf Metals
Heavy Equipment Technician - Truck and Transport Mechanic	John M. Noel Edmonton	City of Edmonton, Richard Pattison Garage
Heavy Equipment Technician - Transport Trailer Mechanic	Ian Alexander Holbom Edmonton	Grimshaw Trucking & Distributing Ltd.

TRADE	APPRENTICE	EMPLOYER
Instrument Technician	Michael Thomas Brightwell Grimshaw	Devon Canada Corporation
Insulator	Joachim M. Woehr Brooks	Big Foot Metal Systems
Ironworker	Byron McCrie Stony Plain	Ironworkers Apprenticeship Administration Agency
Ironworker - Structural	Benjamin Todd Bloemendaal Spruce Grove	Ironworkers Apprenticeship Administration Agency
Landscape Gardener	Lois C. Wiebe Olds	Bow Point Nursery Ltd.
Lather - Interior Systems Mechanic	Jason Christopher Kasper Edmonton	I.I.S. Innovative Interior Systems Limited
Locksmith	Gordon Robert Schuster Stony Plain	Parkland School Division #70
Machinist	Michael Stephen Isaac Airdrie	Foremost Industries Inc.
Millwright	Troy Darvin Hansen Edmonton	Smurfit - MBI
Motorcycle Mechanic	Vance Dennis Caudron Enlida	Riverside Honda and Skidoo
Outdoor Power Equipment Technician - Marine	Curtis William Duffy Gunn	Ecko Marine Ltd.
Outdoor Power Equipment Technician - Recreational	Michael Darren Waters St. Albert	Riverside Honda & Skidoo
Painter and Decorator	Joanne Therese Doyle Calgary	Certified Painting System Inc.
Parts Technician	Garrett Trayhome Wainwright	Tri Ag Implements Ltd.
Plumber & Gasfitter (B)	Dennis Richard Muzyka Vilna	Aspen View Regional Division
Power Lineman	David James Johnstone Leduc	Fortis Alberta Inc.
Power System Electrician	Neil Clifford Garty Redcliff	City of Medicine Hat
Recreation Vehicle Service Technician	Kevin James Martin Edmonton	Guarantee Rv Centre Inc.
Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanic	Orin Edgar D'Mello Edmonton	Johnson Controls Ltd.
Roofer	Kristian Shaw Dyrland Sherwood Park	V&S Roofing Inc.
Sawflier	Alan Forsyth High Level	Tolko Industries Ltd.
Sheet Metal Worker	Kevin Toews Stettler	Action Plumbing & Excavating (1998)
Sprinkler Systems Installer	Michael David Schultz Edmonton	Proudline Fire Protection Services Ltd.
Steamfitter - Pipefitter	Steven James Doroshuk Rocky Mountain House	Quinn Contracting Ltd.
Structural Steel and Plate Fitter	Harmandar Singh Rakkar Edmonton	Supreme Steel Ltd.
Transport Refrigeration Technician	Richard Spencer Haddow Calgary	Eskimo Refrigeration Ltd.
Water Well Driller	Russell Douglas Smith Edson	Ashburn Drilling Ltd.
Welder	Merl Melvin Mayer Medicine Hat	Bromley Mechanical Services Inc.

EMPLOYERS RECOGNIZED FOR COMMITMENT TO APPRENTICES' SUCCESS

Spotlight on...recipients of the Top Employer Award for 2007

Congratulations to Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac), located north of Edmonton, and Pinnacle International of Redcliff – the latest recipients of the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board's Top Employer Award.

Designed to formally recognize exceptional employers who demonstrate strong support for apprenticeship training, the Top Employer Award is presented to two employers each year – one from the northern region of the province and one from the southern region. These employers excel in the work they do to increase apprentices' success in the trades and are committed to promoting the apprenticeship and industry training system in Alberta.

Al-Pac is one of the most modern pulp mills in North America, producing approximately 650,000 tonnes of pulp annually. The company currently employs 100 tradespeople, including 34 apprentices in the electrician, millwright, steamfitter-pipefitter, heavy equipment technician, instrument technician, welder and machinist trades. "We're very proud to receive this award from the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board," said Suzie Shankorik, training and development coordinator. "It helps us confirm that we're doing the right thing and encourages us to continue."

Al-Pac helps ensure the success of its apprentices by providing a mentoring program and paying costs associated with technical training. The company encourages young people to pursue the trades by participating in career fairs in Edmonton and northern communities, and employing seven apprentices in the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP), which gives high school students an early start on a career in the trades.

A full service truck dealership, Pinnacle International has provided sales, servicing, parts and leasing to

the Medicine Hat area since 1993. The company employs 13 journeypeople and nine apprentices in the heavy equipment technician, welder, parts technician and agricultural equipment technician trades. "Being named a top employer by the Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board is a great honour. We are dedicated to supporting our apprentices at all levels and are proud to be recognized for our efforts," said Joe Tien, general manager.

To help ensure the success of its apprentices, Pinnacle International purchases learning modules for apprentices to study before they attend technical training, and provides financial support when apprentices attend training. The company promotes the apprenticeship and industry training system by making presentations at local career fairs, and supports the RAP program. Pinnacle International also helped contribute financially to the recent expansion and maintenance of programs at Medicine Hat College, which included the addition of the heavy equipment technician training program.

"Our apprentices are a tremendous asset to our company, and we take great pride in overseeing the process as they work to achieve certification in the trades," said Joe.



L to R: Shirley Dul, Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of Apprenticeship and Industry Training, Dave Djuric of Alberta Pacific Forest Industries Inc., Brian Bickley, Board Chair



L to R: ADM Shirley Dul, Harvey Tams and Joe Tien of Pinnacle International, Board Chair Brian Bickley

BOARD HONOURS TOP INSTRUCTORS

Spotlight on . . . Bryce Nelson and Allen Clampitt, Alberta's "Top Instructors" for 2007

Bryce Nelson, an auto body technician instructor at NAIT, and Allen Clampitt, a cook instructor at Lethbridge College, are the latest recipients of the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board's Top Instructor Award. Each year, the board recognizes two exceptional technical training instructors – one from the northern region of the province and one from the southern region. Top instructors go beyond the normal requirements of an instructor, providing their students with extra support, encouragement and motivation to succeed.

Bryce joined NAIT two years ago as an instructor, bringing more than 20 years of experience in the auto body technician trade to his role, and he takes pride in helping his apprentices succeed. Bryce earned praise from his students for his supportive, friendly and enthusiastic teaching style. In the words of one apprentice, "Mr. Nelson is truly an outstanding instructor. He has a way of making his students feel they can accomplish anything they set their minds to, and he has given me a sense of pride in myself and a new set of goals."

Allen is a certified cook who got his start in the trade at age 16. He has been an instructor in the Culinary Arts Department of Lethbridge College for 21 years. Described by his apprentices as knowledgeable, encouraging and approachable, Allen has a positive attitude and uses innovative teaching techniques in the classroom to help his students learn about the trade. "Chef Allen makes his students excited to go to class and is a gifted instructor," said one of his apprentices. "He is able to identify the different ways students learn and adjust his teaching style to meet those needs. His experience and knowledge are incomparable."

Both instructors describe receiving this award as a great honour. "It has made me realize that the approach I've taken in the classroom is working," said Bryce. "I like to keep things as simple and as fun as possible, while still challenging the



L to R: ADM Shirley Dul, Top Instructor Bryce Nelson of NAIT, Board Chair Brian Bickley



L to R: ADM Shirley Dul, Top Instructor Allen Clampitt of Lethbridge College, Board Chair Brian Bickley

students to be the best they can be. It's very rewarding to know that the students who nominated me would take the time to make the comments they did."

Allen agrees. "The fact that it is the students who nominate the instructor makes all the extra effort that I put into classes well worth it," he said.

NOMINATE YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Would you like to nominate an instructor for the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board's Top Instructor Award? If you attended or will attend technical training between December 1, 2007 and November 14, 2008, remember that you have a chance to give something back to an exceptional instructor. Tell us why that person deserves special recognition, and the board could present him or her with an award in February 2009.

To increase the chance of having your nomination chosen, be sure to complete the form fully, providing examples of how your instructor met or exceeded the criteria for each area. Nomination forms are sent to each apprentice registered in technical training, and are also available at www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca. The deadline for nominations is November 14, 2008.

PREMIER ANNOUNCES \$24 MILLION TO HOST THE 40TH WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION IN ALBERTA



On May 26, Premier Ed Stelmach announced provincial support of \$24 million, to date, for WorldSkills Calgary 2009. WorldSkills is the largest skills competition in the world, bringing together young people from more than 49 member countries/regions. Competitions are held in over 40 categories, ranging from welding and plumbing to cooking and landscape gardening. This is the first time the competition will be held in Alberta and the second time in Canada.

WorldSkills Calgary 2009 also recently unveiled its official mascots – two Clydesdale horses named Tug and Tess. The horses were chosen as symbols for the event because they are known for their hard work and dedication to duty. The names for the horses were selected through a province-wide contest. Congratulations to Brenda Perry of High Prairie, Alberta for coming up with the winning names.

Apprenticeship Update will continue to provide regular updates on this event, which takes place in Calgary's Stampede Park on September 1-6, 2009.

Entrepreneur Recognized for Giving Back to Trades Community...continued

So far, 346 students have successfully completed the six-week program and have gone on to find work in the electrical field.

At the awards ceremony, Board Chair Brian Bickley talked about Ernie's commitment to helping others. "I don't know of any other individual who has done as much for the shortage of tradespeople in this province as Ernie Wirtanen has done personally," he said. "This special award is in recognition of what Ernie has given back to industry and to his community."

For Ernie, the award is a great honour. "I am pleased to be the recipient of this special award from the Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board, and I was disappointed that I was unable to accept the award in person. One of the difficulties of being 89 years old is you can't always be where you want to be, but I guess being anywhere at this age is a plus," he laughed. "Our school is my way of putting something back into the industry and community where I worked for 54 years. I consider it a privilege to be able to contribute."

In addition to what Ernie has given through the George Wirtanen School, he also recently donated \$1 million to NAIT's Electrical Engineering Technology Program, and \$30,000 to the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board's Family of Scholarships, which awards scholarships to registered Alberta apprentices and trainees.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 30

This year, the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board Family of Scholarships will provide more than 750 awards of \$1,000 or \$1,500 each to qualifying apprentices. The scholarships are now available in four categories: RAP, Pre-Apprentice, Apprentice and Top Apprentice. Selection criteria may include technical training marks, a written personal statement and/or employer recommendation.

For more information on scholarships or to get a scholarship booklet and application form, contact your local apprenticeship and industry training office or download the materials from www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca. The deadline to submit an application is **June 30, 2008**.

New opportunities offered for scholarship donors

Alberta employers now have more options when it comes to contributing to the Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) Board Family of Scholarships. Donors can create "AIT Scholarships" for outstanding apprentices going into their 2nd, 3rd or 4th period of technical training in a trade of the donor's choice. Now, donors will also be able to create scholarships in two new categories: "Pre-apprentice Scholarships" for graduates of pre-apprenticeship programs, and "Top Apprentice Scholarships" for the apprentices with the top marks in a specific trade attending a specific technical training period.

In addition to providing new scholarship categories, the AIT Board is also increasing the recognition it gives to scholarship sponsors. Donors will now be given advertising space in the board's new eye-catching scholarship booklet, which contains scholarship and application information. Other promotional opportunities will also be available according to donation level. Scholarship sponsors will be recognized under the following categories:

RECOGNITION LEVEL	TOTAL DONATION
Supporters	up to \$9,999
Friends	\$10,000 to \$49,999
Champions	\$50,000 to \$99,999
Bronze	\$100,000 to \$149,999
Silver	\$150,000 to \$199,999
Gold	\$200,000 to \$249,999
Platinum	\$250,000 to \$999,999
Diamond	\$1,000,000 and up

For more information about the scholarship program, becoming a donor, or increasing your current donation level, email board.scholarships@gov.ab.ca or call (780) 427-2711 and ask for the Scholarship Coordinator.

The Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board would like to thank the following donors who have contributed to the **2007-08 scholarship campaign**:

- Alberta Construction Association/Jake Thygesen Family (\$140,000)
- Athabasca Oil Sands Project (a joint venture between Shell Canada, Chevron Canada and Marathon Oil Sands L.P.) (\$100,000)
- Progressive Contractors Association of Canada (\$50,000)
- Alberta Building Trades Council (\$40,000)
- Construction Labour Relations - An Alberta Association (\$40,000)
- CLAC (\$30,000)
- Merit Contractors Association (\$30,000)
- Tarpon Energy Services (\$30,000)
- W. Kirkpatrick and Family (\$30,000)
- Wirtanen Family Holdings (\$30,000)
- Alberta Glass (\$25,000)
- Charlton & Hill Ltd. (\$25,000)
- Insulators' Training Trust Fund of Alberta (\$20,000)
- Syncrude Canada (\$20,000)
- Petro-Canada (\$15,000)
- Alberta Food Processors Association (\$10,000)
- Amelco Electric (\$10,000)
- Bird Construction (\$10,000)
- Bunch Welding (\$10,000)
- Calgary Motor Dealers' Association (\$10,000)
- Canadian Home Builders Association - Alberta (\$10,000)
- Canadian Natural Resources Limited (\$10,000)
- Clark Builders (\$10,000)
- Construction Owners Association of Alberta (\$10,000)
- Edmonton Construction Association (\$10,000)
- Edmonton Motor Dealers' Association (\$10,000)
- Ferguson Corporation (\$10,000)
- Heninger Toyota (\$10,000)
- Ironworkers Local 720 (\$10,000)
- K. Hansen Masonry (\$10,000)
- Ledcor Industrial Projects (\$10,000)
- Lehigh Inland Cement Limited (\$10,000)
- Motor Dealers' Association Education Foundation (\$10,000)
- Neumann Plumbing (\$10,000)
- Optimist Club of Sherwood Park (\$10,000)
- PCL (\$10,000)
- Ray-Nor Painting & Decorating Ltd. (\$10,000)
- Roger Dootson Family (\$10,000)
- Sheet Metal Workers International Association Local #8 (\$10,000)
- Sinclair Supply (\$10,000)
- Trimen Electric (\$10,000)
- Vulcan International (\$10,000)
- W. Pidhirney Welding (\$10,000)
- United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 488 (\$5,000)
- Chris Quinlan (\$2,000)

ABORIGINAL PARTICIPATION AND SUCCESS IN THE TRADES



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

This special insert of *Apprenticeship Update* focuses on the success of Aboriginal people in the trades. With Alberta's current demand for skilled workers, employers are looking for dedicated and motivated individuals to fill jobs. They recognize the skills of Aboriginal apprentices, the hard work they do and how they fit into their workplace.

In this insert, you'll find articles about successful Aboriginal people in the trades, including business owners, certified journeypeople and apprentices. We'll also focus on some of the training programs that are helping to encourage Aboriginal people to pursue careers in the trades.

Alberta's apprenticeship and industry training system is committed to increasing Aboriginal participation in the trades by supporting the development of strong partnerships between Aboriginal groups, industry, government and other stakeholders.

Alberta employers and Aboriginal organizations are continuing to work together and looking for creative ways to build a strong and vibrant Aboriginal workforce. I'm proud to be a part of this process, and I look forward to the continued success of Aboriginal people in Alberta's apprenticeship and industry training system.

Brian Bickley

Brian Bickley
Chair, Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board

NEW AWARD RECOGNIZES TOP EMPLOYERS OF ABORIGINAL APPRENTICES

Spotlight on ... recipients of the Board's Top Employer of Aboriginal Apprentices Award

The Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board has unveiled a new award to recognize employers who train Aboriginal apprentices. The award will be presented to two employers each year – one large employer and one small-to-medium-sized employer in Alberta. Congratulations to the first recipients of the Top Employer of Aboriginal Apprentices Award: Syncrude Canada Ltd. and BG Industrial Doctors Inc.

Syncrude Canada Ltd., recipient in the large employer category, operates the largest oil sands facility in the world, producing crude oil from the Athabasca oil sands formation near Fort McMurray. Alain Moore, public affairs advisor, says Syncrude Canada takes pride in building strong relationships with the Aboriginal communities in the area. The company currently has more than 400 Aboriginal employees – about 8.5 per cent of its workforce.

"With the need for skilled workers so high in Alberta, we are always looking for new people and our Aboriginal employees continue to have a tremendous impact on our company," said Alain. "To be recognized by the Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board for our commitment to training Aboriginal apprentices is a great honour, and we look forward to continuing to be one of Canada's largest Aboriginal employers."

Syncrude Canada helps ensure the success of its Aboriginal apprentices by encouraging participation in technical training and providing financial support for tuition and living costs to those who attend training out of town.

BG Industrial Doctors Inc., also located in Fort McMurray, is the recipient of the award in the small-to-medium-sized employer category. The company provides maintenance for pumps and motors, and part of its mission statement is "to continually train Aboriginal and local apprentices and update them with the newest technologies and techniques."

To help ensure the success of its Aboriginal apprentices, BG Industrial Doctors insists their apprentices attend technical training once they have reached the required number of hours. The company also covers the costs of technical training, including tuition, textbooks and some living expenses.

"We are very proud to be recognized with this award from the Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board," said Greg Whalen, operations manager. "It's nice to get an award for doing what has always been our company's mission statement and philosophy. As a company, we are committed to ensuring that all of our apprentices come from the Fort McMurray area. Aboriginal people want to be here, and they deserve a chance to benefit from all of the work opportunities available in the area."



L to R: Shirley Dul, Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of Apprenticeship and Industry Training, Bruce Brodie of Syncrude Canada Ltd., Brian Bickley, Board Chair



L to R: ADM Shirley Dul, Greg Whalen of BG Industrial Doctors Inc., Board Chair Brian Bickley

PARTS TECHNICIAN APPRENTICE ENJOYS CAREER CHOICE

Talking with ... Desiree Ghostkeeper, second-year parts technician apprentice

A good salary, a variety of career options and a chance to do hands-on work are three reasons Desiree Ghostkeeper is happy to be working in the trades. She is currently a second-year parts technician apprentice from St. Albert and is looking forward to the road ahead.

Desiree had been working in the rebuilding industry for five years when she decided to register as a parts technician apprentice. Her employer at that time was a successful journeyman in the trade and helped her learn the job. "I also thought it would be a great opportunity to contribute to our province and to my community, since the apprenticeship training system is so big in Edmonton and Alberta," said Desiree.

Desiree's father, Tom Ghostkeeper, is well-known in the Aboriginal community. He worked for the Alberta government for 30 years and was the executive assistant to the ministers responsible for Aboriginal Affairs from 1991 to 1995. He also worked with the Métis Settlements General Council, where he was the director of the Strategic Training Initiative Program, under the federal Aboriginal Human Resources Development Program.

"I was a committee member for the Alberta Aboriginal Apprenticeship Project where the intent was to encourage Aboriginal people to participate in the trades," said Tom. "Desiree was already working in the rebuilding industry so I told her about the parts technician trade and encouraged her to register as an apprentice. With today's increasing number of journeypeople nearing the age of retirement, finding hardworking and motivated people to fill these jobs is very important. I'm very proud that Desiree is working toward her certification."

Desiree and Tom hope to see more Aboriginal people pursue careers in the trades – but they don't stop there. "We encourage people of all ancestry, young and old, and from both genders, to pursue the trades," said Desiree, who one day would like to open her own business. "There are many careers to choose from within the trades and many routes you can take. You can also earn a certificate in more than one trade to gain more experience to advance to other positions."

A.S.T. APPRENTICE STEERS FOR SUCCESS

Talking with ... Joel Ground, fourth-year automotive service technician apprentice

Joel Ground's drive to provide a comfortable life for his family is what brought him to a career in the trades. A final-period automotive service technician apprentice currently working at Norden Autohaus in Edmonton, Joel is a strong supporter of the trades because they offer journeypeople job security and a promising future.

"The demand for skilled journeypeople is very high right now and there are a lot of training opportunities available," said Joel. "I encourage Aboriginal people from my reserve and other Aboriginal communities in Alberta to choose a trade and register as an apprentice."

Joel had been working at Imperial Oil doing shift work as a production technologist when he decided to make a career change in 2003. Married with two children, Joel was looking for more stable work and a solid future. He heard about the Alberta Aboriginal Apprenticeship Project (AAP) and started looking into the automotive service technician trade. Through the project, he found a job and began his training.

"I've always enjoyed the challenge of solving problems, so the automotive service technician trade is a good fit for me," said Joel, who is a member of the Enoch Reserve outside of Edmonton. "And with today's new technology, it's also very interesting work."

Scott Ewanchuk, Joel's employer, describes Joel as an ideal apprentice. "Joel is doing an excellent job. He's level-headed, attacks problems head-on, and is not afraid to ask questions before he gets in too far," said Scott, who is a certified automotive service technician.

Norden Autohaus currently employs seven apprentices in the automotive service technician and parts technician trades – representing nearly a third of the business' staff. "Training apprentices is a way for us to give back to the trade," said Scott. "With journeypeople retiring and moving on to different career paths within the trades, we are committed to training new apprentices and giving back to the system – and Joel is a perfect example of why we do what we do."

AIT BOARD MEMBER PROUD OF MÉTIS HERITAGE

Jeff Norris knew at a young age that a career in the trades was right for him. Growing up on a farm, he was always tinkering with machines and discovering how things were constructed. This interest eventually led him to his first construction project – Canada Place on Jasper Avenue and 97 Street in Edmonton.

Today, Jeff is a certified ironworker and welder, and the co-ordinator and training instructor for the Alberta Ironworkers Apprenticeship and Training Plan. He has also been a member of the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board since 2004, where he represents employees in designated trades.

"Before I joined the board, I had been an active participant in Alberta's apprenticeship and industry training system for many years and was looking for a way to be more involved. I served as a member of the provincial apprenticeship committee for the ironworker trade, and when the opportunity presented itself to join the board, I jumped at it," said Jeff.

Jeff, who is Métis, would like to see more Aboriginal people participate in the apprenticeship and industry training system at local and provincial levels. "I encourage all people to be involved in the system, and, in my opinion, Aboriginal people in particular need to take advantage of the demands of a strong economy," he said. "They should get the experience through apprenticeship to create a successful career for themselves in a trade or designated occupation."

Throughout Jeff's childhood and teenage years, he was fortunate to have family members who were positive influences on him. "My grandmother was someone to look up to. The advice she gave me was wise and supportive, and she always encouraged me to make my education a top priority," explained Jeff. "My mother, a proud Métis Albertan, was another key role model for

me. Not only was she a support to my career, she was an example of how dedication and hard work build self-worth and pride."

Aboriginal people have always played an important role in the Ironworkers Union, added Jeff. This strong history dates back to the early 1900s when the men of the Kahnawake Mohawk Territory near Montreal, Quebec ventured into the ironworker trade.

Jeff hopes to keep Aboriginal participation in the ironworker trade high through his work with the Alberta Ironworkers Apprenticeship and Training Plan. "We are involved with the Trade Winds to Success program, a unique partnership between the four Union Training Trust Fund(s) and Aboriginal communities," he explained. "The program is designed to increase the number of Aboriginal people working in the trades within the Union Training Trust Fund(s)' existing structures. We are also actively recruiting Aboriginal people into our training program, and promoting the importance of journeyperson certification and lifelong learning whenever we have the opportunity."



Board Member Jeff Norris

APAP PROJECT HELPS ASPIRING ABORIGINAL APPRENTICES

Dwight Wadsworth, a first-year electrician apprentice, is thankful for the Apprenticeship Preparation for Aboriginal People (APAP) project, which has given him a start in the trades. The APAP project is designed to address the unique learning needs of Aboriginal people who would like to participate in apprenticeship programs but need help getting started. The pilot project is currently offered at Red Crow Community College in Lethbridge, NorQuest Campus in Wetaskiwin and Blue Quills First Nations College in St. Paul.

Dwight was among the participants who completed the first training session in Lethbridge. He especially appreciated the help he received with upgrading his math skills. "I had forgotten some things after I graduated from high school so it was a good refresher for me," he said, adding that he also enjoyed the guest speakers that came to talk to them about careers in the trades.

In addition to academic upgrading, the APAP project focuses on computer training, goal-setting and decision-making skills, tips for finding a job, succeeding in a job interview, obtaining a driver's license and earning several safety certificates. Feedback from the students in the first project has been very positive. Students reported feeling both more confident in their ability to learn, and more aware of employer needs and expectations. Of the 15 students who completed the first training session in Lethbridge, 12 have passed an apprenticeship entrance exam.

Dwight is now working with his brother, a journeyman electrician, on residential electrical projects on the Blood Reserve. "Things are going great," said Dwight. "The work is challenging and I'm looking forward to completing my journeyman certificate."

At the first graduation ceremony of the APAP project. L to R: Doug Nelson, APAP Manager; Jonathan Weiss of Red Crow Community College; Bill Derry of House of Tools in Lethbridge, who awarded prizes to some of the program's top graduates; Lavern Scout of Red Crow Community College

Jonathan Weiss, coordinator for the trades program at Red Crow Community College, is very happy with the results of the first APAP training session, which finished in February 2008. "We had 80% of students complete the project and many of them are currently being placed with employers as first-year apprentices," he said. "Our goal is to create employable, confident workers and this project is helping us meet that goal – our participants gain the knowledge they need in a short period of time and find successful employment."

More than 70 students from 13 First Nation reserves and Métis settlements are currently participating at the three pilot project locations in the province. The students, their instructors, and many employers and community supporters hope to see this type of apprenticeship preparation continue to expand throughout Alberta.

For more information about the APAP project, contact Doug Nelson at (780) 427-0837.



DID YOU KNOW?

The **Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiative** was launched on April 1, 2008 to help Aboriginal people enter and complete an apprenticeship program. Operating in Edmonton and Fort McMurray, the initiative assists First Nations, Métis and Inuit people to register as apprentices and supports them both on the job and in technical training.

The initiative uses a modified version of the employment support model from the **Alberta Aboriginal Apprenticeship Project (AAAP)** which wrapped up on March 31, 2008. Through the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiative, apprenticeship consultants will assist more Aboriginal people to enter apprenticeship programs, and support the apprentices who were part of the AAAP. For more information, contact the initiative's apprenticeship consultants:

Edmonton: John Carpenter (780) 427-5901 • Fort McMurray: Lilly Upton (780) 747-6500

BUSINESS OWNER SHARES TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Talking with ... Gerry Gionet, certified ironworker and president and CEO of Aqua Industrial Ltd.

Ironworker Gerry Gionet believes the best way to build a solid business is to be a good person. Certified in the ironworker trade in 1980, Gerry started Aqua Industrial Ltd. in Fort McMurray in 1999. Today, he employs 189 staff, including apprentices in the ironworker, carpenter, steamfitter-pipefitter, electrician, welder and boilermaker trades.

"Some people measure business success by profit, but to me, success is when people believe in you and your word as a business owner," said Gerry, who recently received a regional Aboriginal recognition award for the Wood Buffalo region of Alberta.

For Gerry, starting his company was like raising a child. "You watch it grow and feel such pride when it's doing well," explained Gerry. "To look around at a worksite busy with activity and know that you created it is something that is difficult to put into words. I wish that everyone had the chance to feel that way at least once in their lives, whether it be for a business or something else," he said.

Gerry's advice to anyone thinking of opening a business is to go for it. "When I jumped in, I did it because I didn't want to look back on my life and wish that I had tried it," he said.

Gerry encourages future entrepreneurs to think things through first, be sure it's what they want to do, and have a business plan. "You should be prepared for challenges along the way," said Gerry. "For me, staying informed about the latest technology in oil sands development keeps me on my toes."

Another big challenge for any business owner is the time commitment. "Having the support of family members can make a tremendous difference," he said.

Gerry, who is Métis, also hopes to see more Aboriginal people open their own businesses. "I'm happy to see so many Aboriginal business success stories and I am certainly proud to be one of them," said Gerry. "I am committed to doing anything I can to help encourage Aboriginal youth to pursue the trades, start a business and achieve their dreams."



Gerry Gionet, journeyman ironworker and entrepreneur

LOUIS BULL TRIBE ENCOURAGES MEMBERS TO TAKE UP A TRADE

The Louis Bull Tribe is proud to be a role model for other Aboriginal groups in Alberta when it comes to supporting its members' interest in the trades. Located in the Hobbema area between the towns of Ponoka and Wetaskiwin, the Louis Bull Tribe offers its 1,877 members unique opportunities to gain skills and experience.

The Tribe has contracted with SAIT for the last four years to deliver pre-apprenticeship training programs on the reserve and is currently in the process of starting a similar program with NAIT. "We deliver these programs directly on the reserve and our members take pride in the work they do and the training they are involved in," said Chief Wayne Moonias.

The pre-apprenticeship training on the reserve includes cultural teaching by an Elder, personal development and employment preparation, and academic upgrading in math, science and reading comprehension to challenge trade entrance exams. Participants receive safety certification and hands-on experience in the welder, plumber, painter and decorator, electrician, carpenter, millwright, steamfitter-pipefitter, floorcovering installer and gasfitter trades.

Louis Bull Human Resources monitors participants and encourages them to enter into a career in the trades. They provide access to college information and supply funding for apprentices who attend technical training. The funding covers expenses such as tuition, books, living costs and transportation.

The Louis Bull Tribe also participates in the Apprenticeship Preparation for Aboriginal People (APAP) project with the City of Wetaskiwin. The six-month project includes an introduction to careers in the trades, academic upgrading in math and English, computer training, goal-setting and decision-making, and tips for finding a job, succeeding in a job interview, obtaining a driver's license and earning safety certification.

"The Louis Bull Tribe is committed to offering pre-apprenticeship training programs to its members in order to help them obtain and retain employment in the trades, where there are many exciting and challenging opportunities," said Chief Wayne Moonias.

MULTIPLE TRADE CERTIFICATES EQUAL MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Talking with... Vern Clarke, certified crane and hoisting equipment operator and welder



Vern Clarke, journeyman welder and crane and hoisting equipment operator

Vern Clarke gave his career a lift when he became a journeyman with a dual certificate. He earned his journeyman certificate in the crane and hoisting equipment operator trade (boom truck branch) in 2001, and his welder certificate four years later. Work had slowed down in the crane and hoisting trade, so his employer at that time encouraged him to pursue welding. "One of the best things about being certified in more than one trade is if work slows down in one trade, you can find work in another," explained Vern, who is Métis.

As the owner of his own company, V.E. Clarke Welding Inc., Vern now works as a B-pressure welder in the Edmonton and Fort McMurray areas. He enjoys the flexibility of being his own boss and the challenges that come with it.

Vern encourages others, especially young people, to look into a career in the trades for many reasons. "There is good money to be made in the trades. The work is challenging, and you meet many interesting people along the way," he said.

But Vern feels the real advantages come when journeypeople choose to become certified in more than one trade. "Multiple trade certificates mean a greater variety of work for you and more job security. It also can make you more appealing to employers because you have more experience. And if you would like to move into a management position with a company, having more than one journeyman certificate certainly works in your favor," he said.

Vern is also interested in becoming certified in the steamfitter-pipefitter trade. He is working on completing the number of hours required and will then challenge the steamfitter-pipefitter exam.

LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTER: LOVE OF WELDING RUNS IN FAMILY

Linda Stephan and her daughter April are hoping their positive experiences in the welder trade will spark interest among other Aboriginal people to pursue a career in the trades. "I love being a welder," said Linda, a mother of four currently living in Cabri, Saskatchewan. "In the past, I've worked as a waitress and a chambermaid, and now I am very happy to be working in the trades."

Certified in Alberta in 1998, Linda has her Red Seal, which allows her to work in other provinces. She currently operates her own welding company, Scanuk Welding Ltd., and works as a B-pressure welder in B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan. She employs one apprentice and has plans to hire more in the future.

April earned her certification in the welder trade in 2007. Through the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP), April was able to begin her apprenticeship training while she was attending high school. Like her mother, April was certified in Alberta, earned her Red Seal, and is now operating a welding truck for Concor Enterprises Ltd. in Gull Lake, Saskatchewan.

"I'm excited to be working as a welder. I love the hands-on work and the fact that I can be creative," she said. She is looking forward to moving ahead in her career and saving up enough to buy a house and a truck of her own.

Linda and April, who are First Nations, encourage other Aboriginal people – especially women – to explore careers in the trades. "Women are often led to believe that the trades are dirty, labour-intensive jobs but they're not," said Linda. "I've had other jobs where I was on my feet all day that were much more difficult physically."



April and Linda Stephan, journeyman welders

Part of the reason April chose the welder trade was because her mother was enjoying a successful career and she wanted the same for herself. "My mom is definitely a role model for me, but not just in her career. She's a strong person in many areas of her life ... as a mother, a teacher and a welder," said April.

Linda admits that her journey in the trades wasn't always an easy one. As an apprentice, she needed to balance her work, her training and her four children. But that doesn't stop her from encouraging women to enter the trades whenever she gets the chance. "It's a great career to get into because you always have the certificate behind you, and many doors open for you once you become certified," she said.

April, who would like to become a welding instructor in the future, hopes to be a role model for others the way her mother has been for her. "I want to be able to teach Aboriginal people and others how to weld, and help them find success in a career they enjoy," she said.

PROUD TO BE CERTIFIED

Talking with...members of the Morphy family certified in the warehousing occupation, cook trade and ironworker trade



Russell, Jason and Robert Morphy

An excellent career choice full of possibilities – that's how Russell, Jason and Robert Morphy describe working in the trades and designated occupations.

Russell Morphy, a master warrant officer in the Canadian Forces Reserves, is a certified warehousing technician currently working at 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron. "I chose to pursue my certification in the warehousing occupation because I had been working full-time in the Canadian Forces for more than 30 years and was looking for recognition of my skills in the civilian marketplace," he explained. The value Russell places on certification has been passed on to his twin sons, Jason and Robert.

Jason earned his journeyman certificate in the cook trade in 2000, and spent four years working as a professional chef before taking on his current role as a trades certification officer with Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT). "Never in my wildest dreams did I expect to have accomplished what I have in my career so far," he said. "I didn't know how many doors my certification would open for me."

Before joining AIT, Jason worked as a chef for Rexall Place and Western Food Services, where he provided catering services for concert and sporting events. At the 2003 Heritage Classic hockey game in Edmonton, Jason employed his culinary expertise for players like Wayne Gretzky and Mark Messier. While Jason enjoyed the hands-on work of being a cook, when the opportunity to work with AIT presented itself, he was ready to try something new.

"Being able to use my certificate and trades experience to explore other career options has made me see how highly a journeyman certificate is regarded in today's job market, not only in Alberta but also around the world. I know that I have college-level post-secondary education that is valued and respected," said Jason.

Jason's brother, Robert, recently followed his father and brother's example to obtain his own certification. He now holds a journeyman certificate in the ironworker trade. Employed at A&H Steel Ltd. in Edmonton, Robert is looking forward to his career ahead.

Russell continues to promote certification for workers who want to be recognized for their skills. "We encourage all of our staff, especially young people, to pursue their certification in the trades and designated occupations. If they don't plan to stay with the military for their entire career or if they want to pursue a trade or designated occupation after retiring, certification ensures their skills and experience will be recognized by employers," he said.

The Morphys also encourage journeypeople to get involved in apprenticeship or occupational committees. Before joining AIT, Jason participated in apprenticeship committees for the cook trade at both the local and provincial level. "I saw it as a way to give back to the apprenticeship and industry training system by providing feedback about my training experience and having an influence on the future of my trade," he said.

TRADES WORK FOR WOMEN POWERS UP NEW APPRENTICES

Talking with...electrician apprentices Cindle Lawson and Nicole Woloszyn

Cindle Lawson and Nicole Woloszyn are looking forward to bright futures in the electrician trade, thanks to the Trades Work for Women program. Currently offered in Grande Prairie, the program is funded by the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy and Alberta Employment and Immigration.

Cindle and Nicole are both first-year electrician apprentices working at LH Electric in Grande Prairie. They went through the three-month Trades Work for Women pre-apprenticeship program in November 2007 and joined LH Electric in February 2008.



Nicole Woloszyn and Cindle Lawson with employer Brooks Hoffos in background

Through the program, Cindle, Nicole and the other participants were given a taste of the trades and provided with the skills, knowledge and experience that would help them find employment as apprentices. The program included visits from guest speakers working in the trades, worksite visits, and an on-the-job work exposure placement.

Brooks Hoffos, northern operations manager for LH Electric, couldn't be happier with the program and the work it does to help encourage women to pursue work in non-traditional trades. "I wish this type of training was available for our male apprentices too. I'm very impressed because the program really gives these women an idea of what to expect and prepares them for the job. Cindle and Nicole are doing a fantastic job," he said.

For Cindle, the best thing about working in the electrician trade is that it's not just a job – it's a career. Before she heard about the Trades Work for Women program, she was studying tourism and working as a waitress, but she was looking for a change. Now her plans for the future are to complete her apprenticeship training, then pursue dual certification in the instrument technician trade.

Nicole enjoys working with her hands, making a good salary and having a secure job. She's looking forward to earning her journeyman certificate in the electrician trade, along with her Red Seal, which will allow her to work in other provinces.

The Trades Work for Women program recently completed its third year in February 2008, and promotion has begun for the fourth. So far about 35 women have completed the program, with a number of them going on to become apprentices with local employers.

"The feedback we have received has been very positive," said Denise Carlson, program coordinator, who does a three- and six-month follow-up with each graduate. "We have strong relationships with employers in the community, and I know of quite a few success stories from our graduates."

For now the program is only offered in Grande Prairie, but that could change. "I've received calls from people in other parts of the province asking how they can set up a similar training program in their area," said Denise. "I'd like to see them be able to take our program and use it to organize a program that would work in their area. With today's demand for skilled trades workers, programs like ours are a win-win."

For more information about the Trades Work for Women program contact Denise Carlson, program coordinator, at (780) 539-1225.

APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE EDITOR RETIRES

Apprenticeship Update said goodbye to one of its founding editors this spring. Michèle Spak has been with the Update editing team since the newsletter's inception in 1998. Under her leadership, Update grew into a publication that not only keeps Alberta industry members up-to-date with the news in the trades, but also creates a proud "trades community" by sharing and celebrating the successes of Alberta apprentices and journeypeople. We wish Michèle all the best in her retirement and thank her for helping to make Apprenticeship Update what it is today.

MEET YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board promotes quality and excellence in Alberta's workforce by encouraging the continued growth of designated trades and occupations based on industry standards. The board includes employer and employee representatives from the apprenticeship and industry training system. In this issue, we introduce you to Herman Bruin, Paul Heyens and Brian Hinton, who joined the board in January 2008.



Herman Bruin owns and operates Bruin's Plumbing & Heating Ltd. in Red Deer and currently employs approximately 150 journeypeople and apprentices in the refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic, plumber, gasfitter, and sheet metal worker trades. He has worked in the trades for more than 40 years and is a certified steamfitter-pipefitter, plumber and gasfitter.

Recently recognized as one of Alberta's 50 Most Influential People by Alberta's Venture Magazine, Herman has extensive experience in the construction industry, including terms as president of the Red Deer Construction Association, chair of the Alberta Construction Association and chair of the Alberta Construction Safety Association.

"I've always felt Alberta's apprenticeship and industry training system is one of the best training programs, and I was very pleased to receive my appointment to the board," said Herman. "I'm hoping that my contribution to this position will help make training more flexible to meet today's challenges while maintaining the training's high level of integrity."



Paul Heyens earned his journeyman certificate as a glazier in 1986. As CEO and co-owner of the Alberta Glass Company Inc. in Calgary, Paul manages more than 100 employees, and is responsible for contract administration and project management for construction and glazing projects throughout Western Canada.

Paul's industry participation includes his role as chair of The Termidor Group Inc., secretary treasurer of the Merit Contractors Association of Alberta, past-president of the Provincial Glaziers Association of Alberta, and member of the Calgary Construction Association. He is also a regular volunteer locally and internationally.

"Becoming certified and then mentoring apprentices to become journeypeople has been very rewarding," said Paul. "And now as a member of the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board, I hope to use my experience and abilities to continue to help develop young minds to be our future leaders."



Brian Hinton graduated from the School of Baking at the Cambridge Institute of Technology and School of Arts in England in 1959. He also holds certificates in baking and a national diploma in post-graduate baking studies from Manchester Polytechnic and London Polytechnic.

For the last 20 years, Brian has participated in Alberta's Industry Network as presiding officer for the local and provincial apprenticeship committees for the baker trade. He helped develop course material and test questions for the Alberta Journeyman and Red Seal exams for the baker trade. He also served on the advisory board for the baking program at SAIT, and was an instructor there for five years. Brian is currently CEO of Du Jour Bakery in Calgary, director of technical services for Tapeko Natural Flavors and president of Bakers Advisory Service Ltd.

"In my role on the board, I look forward to doing my part to elevate the stature of the trades to that of other professions in the eyes of the public," said Brian.

UPCOMING PROVINCIAL APPRENTICESHIP OR OCCUPATIONAL COMMITTEE OR PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

CONTACT THE SECRETARY FOR MORE INFORMATION. SEE "NEWS FROM THE TRADES AND DESIGNATED OCCUPATIONS" ON PAGE 7 FOR SECRETARY NAMES.

TRADE/ OCCUPATION	DATE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)
Carpenter	June 12
Rig Technician	June 19
Tool and Die Maker / Machinist (joint committee meeting)	June 25
Industrial Construction Crew Supervisor	October 2
Cabinetmaker	October 30

WHAT'S NEW WITH ALBERTA APPRENTICESHIP'S TECHNICAL TRAINING PARTNERS?

NAIT recently opened the "cutting edge" Sandvik Coromant Centre for Machinist Technology, which is expected to increase the institution's machinist apprenticeship training capacity by 50 per cent. SAIT Polytechnic has launched the MySAIT.ca apprenticeship website. Look for access to tutoring in trade-specific math, seminars on memory strategies and study techniques for exams, and information on grants and scholarships. Red Deer College is now offering millwright and parts technician training. Shop spaces for welder, heavy equipment technician and automotive service technician training have also doubled in capacity.

Lakeland College's Learning Centre offers free academic assistance and peer tutoring services, and the college offers free parking to students. Ask about Lethbridge College's alternative training delivery methods, such as the Weekly Apprenticeship Training System (WATS) for the parts technician and cook trade, Competency-Based Apprenticeship Training (CBAT) for the electrician and carpenter trades, and distance delivery for the electrician trade. Keyano College continues to be a place where oil sands companies look for technical training for their operational and maintenance needs. Be close to opportunities!

Don't forget that Medicine Hat College offers training in the automotive service technician, carpenter, electrician, heavy equipment technician, plumber, steamfitter-pipefitter and welder trades. Olds College now also offers instruction in the welder and carpenter trades. Portage College's recently built steamfitter-pipefitter lab is equipped with the newest welding equipment, and a mobile electrical lab is now in available to deliver on-site instruction. Northern Lakes College is planning to introduce new student housing to support the college's carpenter, electrician and welder programs. For those in the hairstylist trade, Delmar College of Hair Design is offering a trade theory upgrading program to those having trouble passing the final period theory exam in the hairstylist trade, and Marvel College has recently added a new classroom to accommodate more hairstylist apprentices.

For more information, links to all training providers above are available at www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca.

TOP APPRENTICE PROMOTES VALUE OF MENTORSHIP



David Jones, 2006 Top Apprentice Award recipient in the ironworker trade

David Jones, or DJ as he prefers to be called, is a certified ironworker enjoying a busy career in the trades. He works with the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Ironworkers, Local 720, and says he wouldn't be where he is today without the journeyperson mentors who helped him during his apprenticeship training.

DJ shared his story with the recent Top Apprentice Award recipients at the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board Awards ceremony held in February in Edmonton. A Top Apprentice Award honours the apprentice in each trade who achieved the highest overall marks in his or her final period of training and received a strong employer recommendation.

As the Top Apprentice Award recipient for the ironworker trade in 2006, DJ knows firsthand the commitment and hard work it takes to earn the award. At the ceremony in February, he used his opportunity to speak to the most recent recipients about the value of mentoring and how important it is for them to pass along what they have learned to future apprentices.

DJ asked the top apprentices to remember the journeypeople who made a positive impression on them. "They are the people who helped make learning fun and taught you the skills you needed to do the job," he said. Then he asked the apprentices to think about anyone who didn't help them. "Who did you prefer? Who will you now emulate?" he asked.

DJ also talked about how education is an ongoing process for everyone in the trades. "In my opinion, our schooling gives us an excellent foundation upon which to build. Always keep your eyes and ears open and you will always be learning, even if you don't realize it at the time," he said.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR'S SUCCESS WRITTEN IN STONE

Talking with...Matt Pocock, journeyman tilesetter and small business owner

Apprenticeship training can lay the groundwork for a successful career as a business owner. Just ask tilesetter Matt Pocock. He started his business, October Stone, three years ago in Calgary and credits the journeypeople who mentored him throughout his apprenticeship training for giving him the skills he needed to venture out on his own.

"All of the hours spent learning the trade, the tips passed on to me from the journeypeople who trained me, and the time I spent on commercial sites definitely helped prepare me for running my business," said Matt. He advises other tradespeople with entrepreneurial ambitions to take the opportunity to network during their training. "Apprenticeship training helps you meet a lot of people in the trade, and when it comes to starting your own business, it's important to know people in the trade because building a clientele base can be difficult," he said.

Matt was able to open his business when he was just 20 years old, thanks to the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP), which allowed him to start his apprenticeship training while he was in high school. Now 23, Matt is enjoying a steady workload, the chance to deal directly with his customers, and the freedom to put extra time and care into his projects.

"I've always enjoyed working with tile and stone. To many tilesetters, this trade is an art," said Matt. "A front entrance tiled in multi-colored slate or a large profile travertine with a gloss finish can make people want to toss out their throw rug, and I take a lot of pride in that."

Matt's advice for journeypeople thinking of starting a business is to be prepared. For him, paperwork has always been a challenging part of the job, and something he doesn't think he'll ever enjoy doing. But he says the benefits of owning a business far outweigh the challenges. He also encourages people to develop their interpersonal skills. "Good communication skills are essential," he said.



Matt Pocock, journeyman tilesetter and entrepreneur

FEDERAL GRANTS AND TAX CREDITS ENCOURAGE APPRENTICESHIP

Have you heard about the federal government's financial initiatives for employers, tradespeople and apprentices? Here's what you need to know:

FOR EMPLOYERS

Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit

This is a non-refundable tax credit for any business that employs registered apprentices during the first two years of their apprenticeship in a Red Seal trade. It is equal to 10 per cent of eligible salaries and wages for employment after May 1, 2006. The maximum tax credit is \$2,000 per year for each apprentice.

For more information, visit the Canada Revenue Agency's website at: www.cra-arc.gc.ca/whatsnew/apprenticeship-e.html

FOR TRADESPEOPLE

Tradesperson's Tool Deduction

This deduction provides employed tradespeople with an annual deduction from taxable income of up to \$500 to help cover the cost of new tools necessary to their trade. The deduction applies to the total cost of tools in excess of \$1,000 purchased after May 1, 2006.

For additional details, visit the Canada Revenue Agency's website at: www.cra-arc.gc.ca/whatsnew/tools-e.html

FOR APPRENTICES

Apprenticeship Incentive Grant

This new incentive is available for registered apprentices who successfully complete the 1st and/or 2nd period of their apprenticeship program in one of the Red Seal trades, after January 1, 2007. It provides eligible apprentices with a taxable cash grant of \$1,000 per period to a maximum of \$2,000.

To learn more about this grant, visit Human Resources and Social Development Canada's website at: www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/workplaceskills/trades_apprenticeship/AIG/index.shtml or call 1-866-742-3644.

THERE ARE ALBERTA APPRENTICESHIP AND INDUSTRY TRAINING OFFICES IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

Bonnyville New Park Place, Box 8115 5201 - 44 Street Bonnyville, AB T9N 2J4 Tel: (780) 826-6142 Fax: (780) 826-1904	Edmonton 7th Floor, South Tower Capital Health Centre 10030 - 107 Street Edmonton, AB T5J 4X7 Tel: (780) 427-8517 Fax: (780) 422-3734	Grande Prairie Suite 100, Towne Centre Mall 9845 - 99 Avenue Grande Prairie, AB T8V 0R3 Tel: (780) 538-5240 Fax: (780) 538-5237	Lethbridge Room 280, Provincial Building 200 - 5th Avenue South Lethbridge, AB T1J 4C7 Tel: (403) 381-5380 Fax: (403) 381-5795	Peace River 9715 - 100 Street Peace River, AB T8S 1T4 Tel: (780) 624-6529 Fax: (780) 624-6476	Slave Lake Box 787 3rd Floor, Lakeland Centre 101 Main Street SE Slave Lake, AB T0G 2A0 Tel: (780) 849-7228 Fax: (780) 849-7121
Calgary 3rd floor, Willow Park Centre 10325 Bonaventure Drive S.E. Calgary, AB T2J 7E4 Tel: (403) 297-6457 Fax: (403) 297-3799	Fort McMurray 7th Floor, Provincial Building 9915 Franklin Avenue Fort McMurray, AB T9H 2K4 Tel: (780) 743-7150 Fax: (780) 743-7492	Hinton 568 Carmichael Lane Hinton, AB T7V 1S8 Tel: (780) 865-8293 Fax: (780) 865-8269	Medicine Hat 104 Provincial Building 346 - 3rd Street SE Medicine Hat, AB T1A 0G7 Tel: (403) 529-3580 Fax: (403) 529-3564	Red Deer 3rd Floor, First Red Deer Place 4911 - 51 Street Red Deer, AB T4N 6V4 Tel: (403) 340-5151 Fax: (403) 340-5153	Vermilion Box 26, Provincial Building 4701 - 52 Street Vermilion, AB T9X 1J9 Tel: (780) 853-8150 Fax: (780) 853-8203

MORE INFO: Do you have questions about apprenticeship and industry training or any of the trades and occupations? Call 310-0000 toll-free anywhere in Alberta and enter the local number of the apprenticeship and industry training office you would like to reach. The numbers are listed above.

NEWS FROM THE TRADES AND DESIGNATED OCCUPATIONS

Alberta's apprenticeship and industry training system relies on the commitment and involvement of the members of the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board and a network of industry committees at the local and provincial level. The board and the committees are made up of equal numbers of people who represent employers and employees in industry. The committees' primary responsibility is to recommend standards and requirements to the board for training and certification in Alberta's designated trades and occupations.

Below you will find the news from each trade, occupation, and emerging trade or occupation that has news to report. If you don't find your trade or occupation, look for it in future editions. We'll report what's current as the committees provide their news.

Presiding officers (PO) and committee secretaries (Sec) for the committees are identified in the listings below. (Note that PAC stands for Provincial Apprenticeship Committee.) The contact number for all committee secretaries is (780) 427-8765. To connect toll-free, dial 310-0000 before dialing this number.

DID YOU KNOW?

The following trades and occupations have recently undergone major changes:

STEAMFITTER-PIPEFITTER 2nd period welding content has been removed from the course outline, reducing the length of apprenticeship from four years to three years. For details about how this change will affect current and future apprentices, please see the listing in this section, and look for additional details under *News & Announcements* at www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca.

The **WAREHOUSING OCCUPATION** and **PARTS TECHNICIAN TRADE** merger has been approved. For details about how current and future apprentices will be affected, see the listings in this section. More information will be posted soon under *News & Announcements* at www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca.

INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION CREW SUPERVISOR became a designated occupation on June 1, 2008. See the listing below under *Current Trades and Occupations*.

FIELD HEAT TREATMENT TECHNICIAN will become a designated occupation on July 1, 2008. See the listing below under *Emerging Trades and Occupations*.

CURRENT TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS

AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN

PO Ken Wood
Sec Murray Stratton
 PAC presiding officer Shawn Zorn resigned his office effective October 22, 2007, and Ken Wood was recently elected presiding officer in his place. The committee thanks Shawn for his leadership and wishes him all the best. The PAC is still actively seeking one employee and one employer member from the north region. For more information, contact the secretary.

AUTO BODY TECHNICIAN

PO Paul Kwasnicki
Sec Murray Stratton
 A full PAC meeting was held in late April. The committee will be considering changes to its trade regulation, record book and course outline in the coming year. If you have advice that you would like to pass on to the PAC, please contact the secretary.

CABINETMAKER

PO Pete Seerden
Sec A.J. (Tony) Lovell
 The PAC recently elected Pete Seerden as its new presiding officer. All periods of Individual Learning Modules (ILMs) will be available in fall 2008.

For more information, contact the secretary. The NAIT Cabinetmaker Apprenticeship Program now offers courses that count towards Blue Seal certification. Contact NAIT for details.

CONCRETE FINISHER

PO Bradley Shandro
Sec Ed Dohel
 The committee is currently recruiting new members. If you would like to help contribute to the further development of your trade by becoming a PAC member, please contact the secretary.

CRANE AND HOISTING EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

PO Boyd Mahon
Sec Len Arden

The committee thanks its former presiding officer Jack Lane for his years as an active member of the PAC. Jack resigned in April, 2008 to take up his position on the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board, and the committee wishes him all the best. The PAC is investigating offering tower crane training at NAIT, and is also reviewing the current Boom Truck Exception Regulation to better address situations where persons may work in the trade without certification. Contact the secretary for more information.

FLOORCOVERING INSTALLER

PO Jo-Anne Teed
Sec Roland Carignan

Two subcommittees are currently reviewing the scope of this trade and the course outline. Mobile technical training from NAIT will be offered in Calgary for the 2008-09 year. For additional information, contact the secretary.

GAS UTILITY OPERATOR

PO Vacant
Sec Keith Crowell

This committee is looking for additional employee members who would like to contribute to the further development of their occupation. Please contact the secretary for application details.

GASFITTER

PO John Rutherford
Sec Keith Crowell
Gasfitter G1 and G2 certificates from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have now been deemed equivalent to Alberta Gasfitter A and B certificates respectively. The PAC is seeking both employee and employer members. If you would like to contribute to the further development of your trade by joining the PAC, contact the secretary.

GLAZIER

PO Raymond Greenland
Sec Ed Dohel
Mobile technical training is now being offered in Edmonton through SAIT. Apprentices will be able to attend 1st period training in September 2008 and 2nd period training in May 2009. For more information, contact the secretary.

HAIRSTYLIST

PO Joe Vanden Dungen
Sec A.J. (Tony) Lovell
The PAC recently considered the current positioning of barber within the hairstylist trade and determined that the present status of the trade's regulation, course outline and training still best serves the needs of the industry

throughout the province. Contact the secretary to request further information or make inquiries.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN

PO Michael Larson
Sec Murray Stratton

The PAC approved accreditation for 1st period heavy equipment technician technical training last year at Medicine Hat College, and 2nd period training will now be introduced in the 2008-09 year. For more information, see the 2008-2009 apprenticeship class calendar.

INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION CREW SUPERVISOR

PO Ron Cherlet
Sec Erik Schmidt

Industrial construction crew supervisor became a designated occupation on June 1, 2008. An industrial construction crew supervisor is the immediate supervisor of a crew of skilled construction workers on heavy industrial sites, including fabrication shops and modular fabrication shops (mod yards) or sites. He or she may be certified in a designated trade or occupation, or be a practitioner of a skilled industrial construction occupation that is not designated under the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act. Candidates for certification must complete two accredited industry-delivered courses, work 1,000 hours as a foreman/manager within a two-year period, and pass an industry exam. For additional information, contact the secretary.

IRONWORKER

PO Rob Calver
Sec Barry Yerex

A Red Seal exam will be available in the structural/ornamental and reinforcing branches of the ironworker trade in late 2008.

MACHINIST

PO Graham Peterson
Sec A.J. (Tony) Lovell
The PAC is currently in discussions with the tool and die maker PAC regarding making tool and die maker a branch of the machinist trade. For more information, contact the secretary.

PAINTER AND DECORATOR

PO Ken Caniere
Sec Cher Steinke

The PAC has openings for one employee member and one employer member, preferably from the south region. Industry involvement on the PAC is necessary for

our success! For application details, contact the secretary.

PARTS TECHNICIAN

PO Morgan Rockenbach
Sec Murray Stratton

The merger of the warehousing occupation and the parts technician trade was approved by the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology on May 1, 2008. The new parts technician trade has two branches: parts technician and materials technician. The old warehousing occupation training program will continue to be offered until May 1, 2010 to allow trainees registered as of April 30, 2008 to complete their training program and become certified. Letters detailing transition options will be mailed in the near future. For more information, contact your local apprenticeship and industry training office. Also look for an information sheet to be posted soon at www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca under News & Announcements.

PLUMBER

PO Veme Cornwall
Sec Keith Crowell

The PAC has openings for both employer and employee members. Don't miss the opportunity to help with the further development of your trade! Please contact the secretary for application information.

POWER LINEMAN

PO Pat Ryan
Sec Len Arden

The PAC is investigating the possibility of establishing training in the southern region of the province. For more information, contact the secretary.

REFRIGERATION & AIR CONDITIONING MECHANIC

PO Art McMullen
Sec Ron Yaw

The Department of National Defence Certificate of Military Achievement, Qualification Level 5, Refrigeration and Mechanical Technician, is now recognized as equivalent to an Alberta trade certificate in the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanic trade. For more information, contact the secretary.

RIG TECHNICIAN

PO Bruce Jones
Sec Erik Schmidt

The transition period is now at an end: rig technician was fully launched as a compulsory trade on June 1, 2008. There has been strong industry support for this trade, which currently has over 3,000 registered

apprentices and over 2,000 certified journeypersons. Rig technician is now also a part of the interprovincial Standards (Red Seal) Program. For more information, contact the secretary.

ROOFER

PO Mike Lloyd
Sec Cher Steinke

The PAC is looking for a new employer member from the north region. Influence the direction of your trade! For application details, contact the secretary.

SPRINKLER SYSTEMS INSTALLER

PO Shauna Vollmer
Sec Keith Crowell

The PAC is seeking employee members – influence the direction of your trade! For application information, contact the secretary.

STEAMFITTER- PIPEFITTER

PO Larry Yakemchuk
Sec Keith Crowell

The Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board has approved the removal of the 2nd period welding content from the steamfitter-pipefitter apprenticeship program on the PAC's recommendation. This will reduce the length of the apprenticeship program from four years to three years. The board also approved elimination of the government administered welding practical exams, opting to use the post-secondary institution practical marks for the evaluation. Additional details regarding these changes can be found under News & Announcements at www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca. The PAC is actively

seeking employee members. Contribute to the further development of your trade! For more information, contact the secretary.

STEEL DETAILER OCCUPATIONAL COMMITTEE

PO Jim Kanerva
Sec Erik Schmidt

Formal training in this occupation is delivered by the Alberta chapter of the National Institute of Steel Detailing, with course outlines developed by the committee. Final (3rd) period technical training is expected to be implemented in 2008. For more information, contact the committee secretary.

TOOL AND DIE MAKER

PO Clinton Stern
Sec A.J. (Tony) Lovell

The PAC continues to investigate becoming a branch of the machinist trade because of low enrollment numbers, which limit training options. Entrance requirements for the tool and die maker trade are currently equivalent to those of the machinist trade. The PAC is still seeking employer and employee members. Contact the secretary for more information.

WAREHOUSING

PO Don Lehmann
Sec Murray Stratton

Effective May 1, 2008, the warehousing occupation merged with the parts technician trade under the name of parts technician. The materials technician branch of the new trade is specifically designed to meet the training needs of the warehousing industry. Persons who are currently registered trainees in one of the three levels of

warehousing certification training will have until April 30, 2010 to become certified in the level in which they are enrolled. Persons who are certified at the basic or intermediate levels will have the opportunity to challenge the qualification exam for the next succeeding level if they meet the qualification requirements. As well, warehousing trainees and employees are encouraged to gain certification in the materials technician branch of the trade. For more information, contact your local apprenticeship and industry training office. Also look for an information sheet to be posted soon at www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca under News & Announcements.

WELDER

PO Ivan Furber
Sec Barry Yerex

Support from industry is required for the new wire process operator branch, which was added to the welder designation in February 2007. Wire process operators work primarily in production and manufacturing plants, joining components and sub-assemblies with gas metal arc welding (GMAW) and flux cored arc welding (FCAW) processes. For more information, contact your local apprenticeship and industry training office.

EMERGING TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS

CATHODIC PROTECTION PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE

PO Serge Larocque

Sec Darrell Mottershead
The committee continues to consult with key stakeholders on the proposed designation of cathodic protection worker as an occupation. Results from a study of industry support for this designation are expected in late 2008. For more information, contact the secretary.

FIELD HEAT TREATMENT TECHNICIAN PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE

PO Ken Mac Aulay
Sec Erik Schmidt

Field heat treatment technician will become a designated occupation as of July 1, 2008. The certification process will allow individuals to demonstrate competency by completing the four-year industry training program – or demonstrating six years of work experience in the occupation – and successfully challenging the industry exam. Heat

treatment relieves the stresses that can be created during welding. Field heat treatment technicians apply heat treatment to welded joints such as pipelines, process plants and power plants at industrial sites. For details, contact the secretary.

FIREPROOFER PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE

PO Richard Wassill
Sec Joe Mulder

This new committee has had its inaugural meeting and is currently working towards an application for occupational status. Fireproofers apply fire-resistant material to building interior and exteriors in commercial and industrial settings. For more information, contact the secretary.

NATURAL GAS COMPRESSION TECHNICIAN PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE

PO Ralph Hartman
Sec Darrell Mottershead

Consultation with related trades and government

departments and agencies is near completion. When completed, an application for natural gas compression technician to become an optional certification trade will be put to the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board.

RAIL CAR TECHNICIAN PROVISIONAL COMMITTEES

PO Paul Soetemann
Sec Darrell Mottershead
The committee continues to compile its application to make rail car technician an optional certification trade. For more information, contact the secretary.

SITE MANAGER RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE

PO Dennis Little
Sec Erik Schmidt
The committee continues its work to define the parameters of this occupation and develop a training strategy. For more information, contact the secretary.

APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE IS DISTRIBUTED BY THE ALBERTA APPRENTICESHIP AND INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD IN RESPONSE TO INDUSTRY MEMBERS' REQUESTS FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ALBERTA'S APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.

GOT A STORY IDEA?

Are you – or do you know of – an apprentice or journeyperson with an interesting story to tell? How about an employer who is a strong promoter of our apprenticeship system? Send your story ideas to: aitinfo@gov.ab.ca, Attention: Editor, Apprenticeship Update.

WRITE: Apprenticeship Update, Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training
10th floor, Commerce Place, 10155 – 102 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L5

FAX: (780) 422-7376

E-MAIL: aitinfo@gov.ab.ca

HAVE APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE E-MAILED TO YOU

Would you like to be notified when Update is available on the website? Send us your e-mail address and we'll add you to our list. We can be reached at aitinfo@gov.ab.ca, Attention: Apprenticeship Update.